

Sheats' Strong Plea for States Uniformity

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sons who had informed against the American Book Company. There has been no mystery about this matter, and Mr. Branham was informed in THE SUN office as to where the information concerning the American Book Company and its methods came from. The business rivals of the American Book Company know better than any other agency or entity to what extent the American Book Company goes to maintain and hold the monopoly of business that it has built up, and Mr. Branham knew that THE SUN had obtained its information from the business rivals of the American Book Company. The threat that he made as to suing for libel may have been made for the purpose of influencing action on the resolution before the convention, or it may have been made for the influence it would have on the Legislature. It was noticeable that Mr. Branham was given hearing before action was taken upon the resolution pending.

The fact that the bill of Senator Humphries was distributed among the members of the convention, and that no other bill on the Text Book Uniformity Question was distributed, may be taken as evidence that this is the bill which the book trust, the American Book Company, desires to be passed if it has to yield any part of the monopoly that now exists in Florida.

The speeches of the Superintendents against the uniformity measure were without argument, and contained nothing germane to the subject. The only speech which did comprise anything of sense or argument was that made by W. N. Sheats, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction, now principal of the Leon County High School.

In part Mr. Sheats said: "We have been fed on anti-uniformity pabulum for the past twenty-five years. You know, and I know, that the question of State Uniformity doesn't originate with the teachers and Superintendents. You know, and I know, that a certain book company has done all the book business in Florida; for a number of years they have filled our newspapers with anti-uniformity matter, and their agents have traveled with our teachers and Superintendents and all the time they have been talking against uniformity. I was never afraid of uniformity, although I have been fighting it for the past four teen years. I have been talking and you have been talking just what you were taught to talk. It isn't our fight at all. We are simply saying what we have been taught to say."

"But this question won't down. It was up in 1893, when I came to the Capitol, and it has been up at every session of the Legislature since, and it is up again now. We've got to settle it. There's millions on both sides of it. It's a fight of one book company to keep business it has already, and the fight of other book companies to get business which they haven't got. There's no great bogey in this State Uniformity measure. We can talk all we want

to about being 'professional,' but I want you to stop and consider if we are any more professional than the State of Georgia, which has State Uniformity. Are we any more professional than the State of Alabama, which has State Uniformity? Are we any more professional than North Carolina, which has State Uniformity? I don't care how we look at it, the fact remains that we are posing now as a catspaw of one of the money powers of the country. They have been clever. Yes, they have given us books. (At this juncture the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who was presiding, nudged the secretary, who had just made an impassioned speech against State Uniformity). But there's no use getting up here and saying that we don't want State Uniformity. We've got practical State Uniformity now. The American Book company is supplying books to a majority of the counties in the State and do you think we are getting too stereotyped? I have always told them, and I tell them now, that we are paying too much for school books. Why should we pay more for school books than the State of Georgia does? If State Uniformity gives Georgia cheaper books than we have in Florida, then I say give us State Uniformity. This money that is being used to defeat a State Uniformity measure is just as active as the money of the Republican party. We shouldn't permit such consideration to influence us. If State Uniformity is a good thing, let's have it. If it will save us money, let's adopt it."

Mr. Sheats was applauded, and was followed by Mr. Thomas MacBeath, who has heretofore been one of the ardent advocates against State Uniformity. Mr. MacBeath stated that he proposed to take no part in the fight, since it had gotten to be a partisan political fight. He said the Humphries bill met his approval with the exception of the words in the first section of the bill, which read, "under like conditions." This he said was the fly in the ointment, and that the convention should not indorse the bill in this shape. Later a motion prevailed to indorse the sentiments of the Humphries bill.

Senate Creates More Sinicures

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deau, Henderson, Hudson, Humphries, Jackson, Leggett, Massey, Trammell, Willis, Withers, West (1st District)—20.

Nays—Senators Adams, Cone, McCreary, West (4th District)—4.

A special order on the calendar to-day is the bill of Senator Adams, "to provide for the proper care, maintenance and protection, inspection, rules for regulating and control of county prisoners, manner of their discharge, and inspection of county jails, and to pay for the expense of carrying out the provisions of this act."

This is a law long needed, and has been urged by Com-

missioner McLin as necessary, that the same supervision be accorded the county convicts as that given those of the State.

Another special order for to-day is the bill of Senator Crane, "vesting in county commissioners power to make, grant and give permits for the occupation and use of highways, roads and streets, outside of the corporation limits of cities and towns, by surface street railways, and legalizing and confirming all grants and permits heretofore made and given by County Commissioners in relation to the occupation and use of such highways, roads and streets by surface street railways."

This bill was on third reading yesterday, but feeling seemed to prevail that more time should be given for its consideration, and it was placed on the calendar as noted.

FAULKNER WANTS ELECTION FOR PROHIBITION.

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play the role of adviser to King Canute, by moving that the "wa(i)ves be ruled."

Mr. DuPont of St. John fought hard for his bill to authorize and empower notaries public to act and perform the duties of Coroner in certain cases, but the fates were against him, also the votes, so the bill did not pass.

Mr. Reese of Escambia called attention to the unconstitutionality of the bill, to which Mr. DuPont replied: "We'll let that go. Necessity is the mother of invention, and necessity calls for the passage of this bill," but the "mother's" voice was pitched too low and the House heard it not.

Mr. DuPont's remark deserves preservation with that of the late Congressman Tim Campbell of New York, who said: "What's the Constitution between friends?"

The House adopted a resolution by Mr. Mathews of Marion, commending Attorney General Ellis for doing his duty relative to the mandamus against the Atlantic Coast Line Railway.

Among the bills introduced, was that by Mr. McClellan of Suwannee, to declare any person the perpetrator of a fraud if he obtained money for labor and does not perform the labor; by Mr. McKenzie, relating to suffrage; by Mr. Kirkland of Lake, relating to agricultural statistics. House Bill No. 93, a bucket shop bill, was made a special order for next Monday.

Mr. Dade, of Dade, occupied the chair temporarily yesterday. He has a record as a presiding officer, and is always mentioned as being one of the best Speakers ever presiding over the House of Representatives.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

Cicero Lodge meets to-night in Castle Hall. All members requested to be present and all visiting Knights in the city are cordially invited to attend this and other meetings.

W. N. SHEATS, K. of R. and S.

The Stormy Gulf.

The gulf of Mexico is a water of storms, not frequent, but frenziedly violent. It is, in effect, an immense scallop cut from the land, and hurricanes seem to gravitate to it naturally. They are born in the neighborhood of the Saragossa sea, strike the West Indies and not infrequently leave those islands at a tangent, just as a ball thrown at an obtuse angle against a wall slides along it for a little space and again seeks vacancy. These erratic forces of the air strike the coast of Mexico or the coast of Texas, according to their angle, and death is in their track. The things called "tidal waves" in that section are not really tidal waves. They are not caused by an upheaval. They are merely local in effect. They are not vast walls of water moving with resistless speed and weight over the face of the ocean. They are waters banked up against a low coast by wind pressure until they overflow. In many instances the submergence is gradual, and ample opportunity for escape is given. Other times the violence of the air makes them sudden, and people are drowned.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

P. T. Nicholson
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Drunkards in Norway.

In Norway drunkenness is punished by imprisonment. When a man is incarcerated he has a loaf and wine supplied to him morning and evening. The bread is served in a wooden bowl full of wine, in which it has been soaked for an hour. The first day the prisoner swallows his allowance willingly enough. The second day it seems less pleasing, and at the end of the eight or ten days men have been known to abstain altogether from the food thus presented. Except in rare instances the drunkard is cured by this treatment.

Caesar did not say "Et tu, Brute." Eyewitnesses of the assassination deplored that he died fighting, but silent, like a wolf.

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